

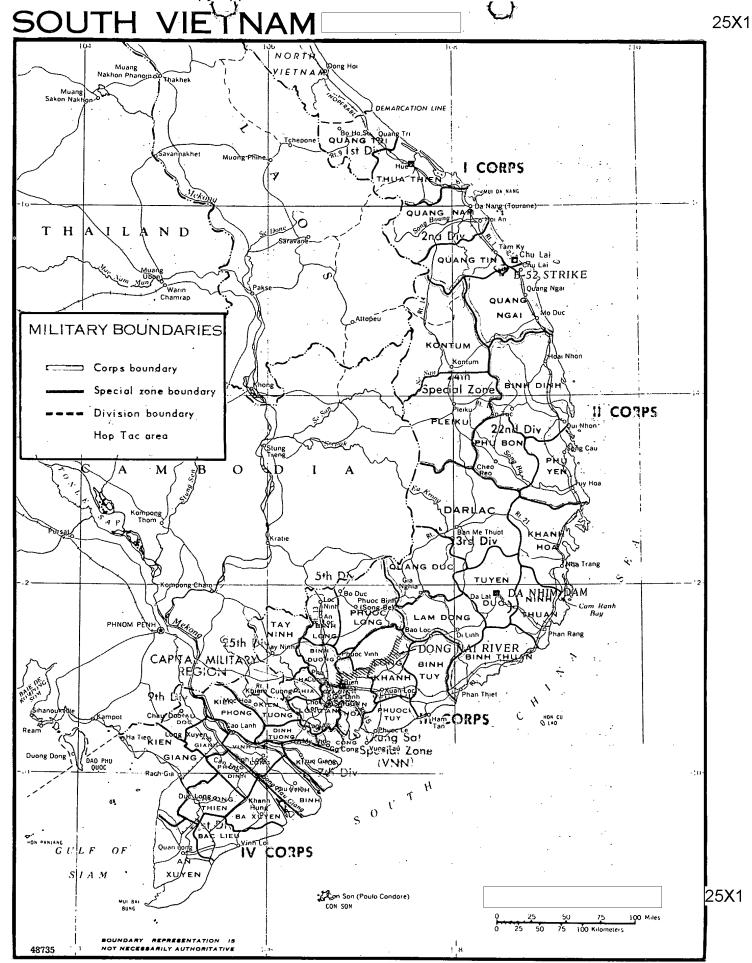
÷	
	10 September 1965
	HIGHLIGHTS
	The joint US Marine A ARVN sweep-and-destroy operation that began on 6 September south of Chu Lai is entering its final phase after inflicting heavy casualties on the Viet Cong.
. •	
	The Military Situation in South Wietness UCD
	I. The Military Situation in South Vietnam: "Operation PIRANHA," the multibattalion USMC-ARVN sweep-and-destroy operation initiated on 6 September in northeast Quang Ngai Province, 20 miles south of Chu Lai, entered its terminal phase today; Viet Cong losses now total 183 killed and 51 captured, as against government casualties of 11 killed (1 US) and 45 wounded (12 US) (Paras. 1-3). Twenty-nine Guam-based B-52 Stratofortresses last night conducted a saturation bombing attack against a suspected Viet Cong base area near the Quang Tin - Quang Ngai province border; however, poststrikes ground exploitation by ARVN and Special Forces units failed to detect any evidence of Viet Cong activity in the target area (Para. 4).

25X1

25X1

25X1

II The Delitical Developments in South Vietness	
II. The Political Developments in South Vietnam: General Westmoreland has issued guidelines for the future conduct of US combat operations that are designed to minimize casualties among noncombatants and to encourage greater participation of Vietnamese forces. (Paras. 1-2).	
	•
TW Other Comment William David	
IV. Other Communist Military Developments: Nothing significant to report.	
V. Communist Political Developments: Soviet	
party chief Brezhnev has again denounced US policy in Vietnam and declared that efforts to crush the	
"national liberation movement" are doomed to fail. His warning that local conflicts can lead to a "big	
war," however, appears aimed at both Peking and Washington (Para. 1).	
VI. Other Significant Developments:	
	2
US air strikes, which have cut the Hanoi - Lao Kay rail line, are apparently causing a	
shortage of aviation gasoline in the Kunming area	
of Communist China. This line, which runs through North	
Vietnam, is the only rail link between China proper and Yunnan Province (Paras. 2-3).	



I. MILITARY SITUATION IN SOUTH VIETNAM

- l. "Operation PIRANHA," the multibattalion USMC/ARVN sweep-and-destroy operation initiated on 6 September against a suspected Viet Cong provincial headquarters, storage area, and reinforced battalion in northeast Quang Ngai Province, 20 miles south of Chu Lai, entered its terminal phase today. The 1st Battalion/7th US Marines yesterday engaged a Communist force of undetermined strength in a brief firefight, killing 17 guerrillas and capturing 21, while sustaining no losses themselves. The remainder of the joint operational forces continued to encounter only light enemy small-arms fire.
- 2. Viet Cong losses to date stand at 183 killed, 51 captured, 190 suspects detained, and 26 weapons seized. Government casualties thus far have been placed at 11 killed (1 US) and 45 wounded (12 US).
- 3. US forces commenced withdrawal operations last night according to plan. One marine battalion began backloading on amphibious craft for redeployment to Chu Lai. The second marine battalion is scheduled to be moved out by helicopter.
- 4. Twenty-nine Guam-based USAF B-52 Stratofortresses last night conducted a saturation bombing attack against a suspected Viet Cong base area situated near the Quang Tin Quang Ngai province border and believed to contain command and control elements of Military Region 5 (MR:5) headquarters. Follow-up ground exploitation of the target zone by ARVN and Special Forces units failed to establish contact with the enemy, and no signs were detected of any recent Viet Cong activity, such as antenna fields, camp sites, or equipment.

10 September 1965



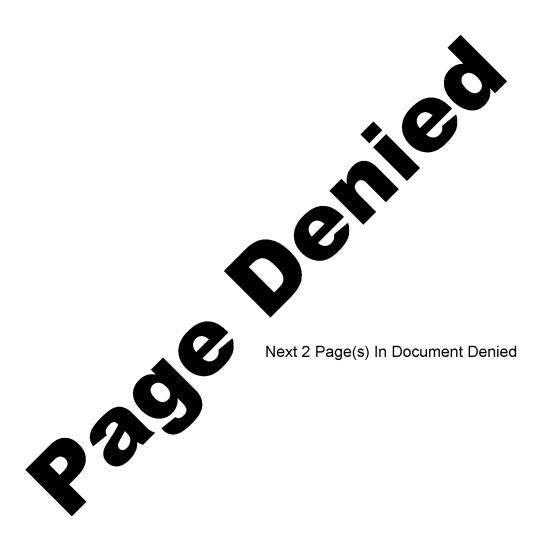
- 7. Vietnamese sea and coastal forces inspected 4,579 junks and 19,830 persons in coastal surveillance operations conducted off South Vietnam during the period 31 August 7 September. US Navy and Coast Guard surveillance units inspected 589 ships. No known maritime infiltration attempts were reported.
- 8. On 4 September, the <u>USS Savage</u>, while investigating fishing boats near the coast southeast of Saigon, collided with and sank a Chinese Nationalist trawler. The <u>Savage</u> sustained no damage; however, one Chinese crew member was killed and three were missing following the incident.
- 9. MACV's military report for 8 September shows 107 Communist-initiated incidents, 17 of them occurring during the 24-hour reporting period. No major new actions were reported, as Viet Cong tactics continued to emphasize widespread mortar and small-arms harassment of district towns, New Life hamlets, and paramilitary outposts; small-scale acts of terrorism against the civilian population; mine detonations against military convoys; and sabotage against land lines of communication.

10 September 1965

II. POLITICAL DEVELOPMENTS IN SOUTH VIETNAM

- l. In a recent directive, General Westmore-land emphasized that US forces engaged in combat operations must exercise more restraint than is usually required of soldiers on the battlefield in order to preclude unnecessarily high casualties among noncombatants. The directive points out, that in addition to the purely humanitarian aspect, a lack of such restraint can be exploited by the Viet Cong in their propaganda. Westmoreland stressed the necessity to create an image of the American forces being invincible over the Viet Cong, but not at the expense of demonstrating disregard for noncombatants.
- 2. Commanders are cautioned to plan their operations with consideration of both the military and psychological objectives. Future operations, with due regard for security, will be planned in coordination with province and district chiefs, and US liaison officers will be positioned at the sector headquarters by US combat forces operating in that particular province. In major operations, US commanders and advisers are now required to arrange for RVNAF liaison officers to accompany them; also, increased participation is being sought for Vietnamese regular forces and paramilitary forces in lower echelons of US unit operations.

10 September 1965



Declassified in Part - Sanitiz	ed Copy Approved for Release 2012/10/11 : CIA-RDP79T00	0472A002200010008-9
		20/(1

IV. OTHER COMMUNIST MILITARY DEVELOPMENTS

1. Nothing significant to report.

10 September 1965

IV-1

25X1

V. COMMUNIST POLITICAL DEVELOPMENTS

l. Soviet leaders continue their sharp denunciation of US policy in Vietnam. In a 10 September speech, party chief Brezhnev claimed that Washington's "escalation" of the war demonstrates the insincerity of its calls for a peaceful settlement. Brezhnev declared that "military gambles" designed to crush the "national liberation movement" are doomed to failure. He warned, however, in a remark apparently directed at both Washington and Peking, that "it would be a mistake" to underestimate the dangers of the current situation, since so-called "local conflicts are fraught with the threat of a big war."

10 September 1965

V-1

	VI. OTHER SIGNIFICANT DEVELOPMENTS	
		· · · ·
the POL Chin	supply of aviation gasolineand possibly productsin the Kunming region of Commun	to affect y other nist
POL Chin ing link	supply of aviation gasoline—and possibly products—in the Kunming region of Communa. 3. The Hanoi — Lao Kay railroad—cut by in early July—is part of the only exists between Communist China proper and the	y other nist y bomb- ing rail Kunming
POL Chin ing link regi has	supply of aviation gasoline—and possibly products—in the Kunming region of Communa. 3. The Hanoi - Lao Kay railroad—cut by in early July—is part of the only exist; between Communist China proper and the lon. In the past, the bulk of POL for the been transported through the North Vietna	y other nist y bomb- ing rail Kunming e region
POL Chin ing link regi has	supply of aviation gasoline—and possibly products—in the Kunming region of Communa. 3. The Hanoi — Lao Kay railroad—cut by in early July—is part of the only exists between Communist China proper and the lon. In the past, the bulk of POL for the	y other nist y bomb- ing rail Kunming e region
POL Chin ing link regi has	supply of aviation gasoline—and possibly products—in the Kunming region of Communa. 3. The Hanoi - Lao Kay railroad—cut by in early July—is part of the only exist; between Communist China proper and the lon. In the past, the bulk of POL for the been transported through the North Vietna	y other nist y bomb- ing rail Kunming e region
POL Chin ing link regi has	supply of aviation gasoline—and possibly products—in the Kunming region of Communa. 3. The Hanoi - Lao Kay railroad—cut by in early July—is part of the only exist; between Communist China proper and the lon. In the past, the bulk of POL for the been transported through the North Vietna	y other nist y bomb- ing rail Kunming e region
POL Chin ing link regi has	supply of aviation gasoline—and possibly products—in the Kunming region of Communa. 3. The Hanoi - Lao Kay railroad—cut by in early July—is part of the only exist; between Communist China proper and the lon. In the past, the bulk of POL for the been transported through the North Vietna	y other nist y bomb- ing rail Kunming e region
POL Chin ing link regi has	supply of aviation gasoline—and possibly products—in the Kunming region of Communa. 3. The Hanoi - Lao Kay railroad—cut by in early July—is part of the only exist; between Communist China proper and the lon. In the past, the bulk of POL for the been transported through the North Vietna	y other nist y bomb- ing rail Kunming e region
POL Chin ing link regi has	supply of aviation gasoline—and possibly products—in the Kunming region of Communa. 3. The Hanoi - Lao Kay railroad—cut by in early July—is part of the only exist; between Communist China proper and the lon. In the past, the bulk of POL for the been transported through the North Vietna	y other nist y bomb- ing rail Kunming e region
POL Chin ing link regi has	supply of aviation gasoline—and possibly products—in the Kunming region of Communa. 3. The Hanoi - Lao Kay railroad—cut by in early July—is part of the only exist; between Communist China proper and the lon. In the past, the bulk of POL for the been transported through the North Vietna	y bomb- ing rail Kunming e region amese

Declassified in Part - Sanitized Copy Approved for Release 2012/10/11 : CIA-RDP79T00472A002200010008-9